

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /065 W
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P R 051510Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6176

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0513

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF BA-MFM

REF STATE 021494

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MONTIEL, JANUARY 31, AND DELIVERED TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT AND REMARKS MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AS PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL.

2. MINISTER MONTIEL EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THIS INFORMATION AND DURING THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION ADVISED THAT MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ARGENTINA HAD TELEPHONED HIM ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 25 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONEMENT FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. MONTIEL SAID THAT ARGENTINE FONMIN HAD STATED THAT IN VIEW OF REFUSAL OF VENEZUELA, ECUADOR AND POSSIBLY PERU, TO ATTEND MEETING, THAT HE FELT IT PROBABLY BEST TO POSTPONE GET TOGETHER. MONTIEL THEN ENGAGED IN PHILOSOPHICAL COMMENTARY TO AMBASSADOR RE SENSITIVITIES OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. MONTIEL SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE
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LACK OF MATURITY AMONG LATIN COUNTRIES WHICH REFLECTED ITSELF IN

THIS HYPERSENSITIVE ATTITUDE. HE FURTHER SAID THAT VENEZUELA WAS NOW "WIELDING A BIG STICK" AND THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WERE HESITANT ABOUT "FRONTAL DISAGREEMENT WITH THEM". MONTIEL SAID THAT IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S HANDLING OF MATTERS IN THE MEETINGS IN MEXICO CITY, WASHINGTON, AND ATLANTA HAD BEEN "SUPERB" BUT THAT IT WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT LATIN COUNTRIES TENDED TO ASCRIBE TO WILLINGNESS OF UNITED STATES TO MEET WITH THEM OUTSIDE OF OAS FORUM AS INDICATION OF OVER-ANXIETY ON PART OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WHICH TENDED TO WEAKEN USG BARGAINING POSITION. MONTIEL CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT NICARAGUA WOULD HAVE ATTENDED BUENOS AIRES MEETING AND CONTINUES TO WISH TO FOLLOW LEAD OF UNITED STATES IN ALL SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. HE EXPRESSED BELIEF, HOWEVER, THAT USG SHOULD CONCENTRATE IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH LATIN COUNTRIES AND NOT EXPOSE ITSELF TO MULTI-LATERAL MEETINGS WHERE THE UNITED STATES WOULD BECOME INVOLVED, AND POSSIBLY EMBARRASSED BY THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES THAT EXIST WITHIN LATIN AMERICA. MONTIEL SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ON THESE DIFFERENCES USING AS AN ILLUSTRATION THE ALMOST TOTALLY DIVERGENT ATTITUDES OF MEXICO AND CHILE, AND THE DEGREE OF COMPETITION PRESENTLY COMING TO THE FOREFRONT BETWEEN MEXICO AND VENEZUELA.

3. MONTIEL DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A STRONG BELIEVER IN "LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY" EXCEPT WHERE SOME EMOTIONAL ISSUE CAN BE FOUND SUCH AS VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR EXPLOITED IN THEIR "DEFENSE OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS".
SHELTON

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